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WARREN CORRESPONDENCE.

Death James L. Van Gorder-A Western Re-serve Pioneer-Sketch of his life and early times

Death James L. Van Gorder—A Western Reserve Pioneer—Sected of his life and early times in Warren.

Wanner, Sept. 20th, 1858.

Entron Dairy Leader—Only a few months ago I sent your a hasty sketch of the life and times of Dr. John B. Harmon, a vetern and a proneer in the actitement of Trumbull County—no common man—who had but then lately deceased. In that act I performed what seemed to me a public duty, as well as to manifest my respect and veneration for the memory of a friend who had performed his duty to his country and fellow men. Well, and at a ripe old age had passed on from the present to a future state of existence. I did not then suppose that state of existence. I did not then suppose that I would be called upon so soon to report the death of another of Trumbull's Pioneers-but the sad duty now devolves upon me, as your faithful correspondent, to report the death of JAMES L. VAN GORDER, a pioneer of Warrena compatriot of Dr. Harmon, a man whose life has been a grand and noble triumph for high principles, manly exertions and manly perseve-

While the line of life and duty which he had marked out for himself was entirely different to Warren, he purchased the Cotgreave property on Market street, which he has owned ever and distinct from that of Dr Harmon, yet he was no less a man of mark-while the one was great in his profession, the other was equally great in his calling, was in fact a very Napoleon in business and enterprise. He had to do with facts, sober realities, and he was able to ombine, arrange, handle and work them at will. He overcame difficulties which could not fail to appul men of more than ordinary strength, and with promptness and energy rarey equaled would set at defiance all the known and long established rules of approach, to the Supoleon at Austerlitz, and would win the victory—a victory none the less glorious be-cause won in the domain of business and the outer and sober walks of life.

County Nuisance. This building which served for so many public purposes was erected by Gel. W. W. Cotgreave, who, in his time, was quiet and sober walks of life.

James L. Van Gorder was born at Kingston, Luzerne county, in the State of Pennsylvania, on the first day of April, 1785; and died in Warren, Ohio, September 14th, 1858, aged 73 years months and 14 days.

His parents were in moderate circumstances nd he was reured to toil and hard labor, and had but limited means for education. When he was thirteen years old his father moved to the wilds of Virginia and settled in Clarksburg, Harrison county, in that State. The woods of Western Virginia, or the society there did not seem to be congenial to the sturdy Pennsylvanian and his residence there was but short In the course of three or four years he went back into the State of Pennsylvania, and settled near Pittsburgh.

In 1799 the settlement of Warren had been ommenced, and in 1800 Henry Lane came to Warren from Luzerne or Westmoreland county, and made a permanent settlement. He, or his family, were connected with the Van Gorders by marriage, and he sent for James L. to come into the woods in Trumball county to present old bridge, where it remained until the present by the present of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Cathe subject of the sketch, came to Warren and hired with Henry Lane. He was then a lad of dam for these mills, and they gave Mr. Van be much missed from the busy circles of life dam, and as-about the time his father's family went from sixed him about the crection of a new one. He Virginia to Pittsburgh. At this time Trembull county was almost an unbroken wilderness, there was scarce a settlement between Brighton, in ly appearance to the otherwise beautiful land Beaver county, Pa., and Warren. Judge Young had settled in what is now the village of Youngstown, as early as 1796, and before the first surveying party landed at Conneaut, under the auspices of the Connecticut Land Co., but in 1802 few settlers had joined him, and on the Salt Spring Tract, where the first white man had dwelt upon the Reserve, perhaps as early as 1785, but long before the settlements were made, had been driven off or killed by the Indians. Reuben Harmon, Esq., had settled in 1799, and in 1800 Warren contained 16 persons all told, so that in 1802 young Van Gorder had a wilderness to free inhabited by only about 100 of youth, difficulties appear like mountains, which to the mature man would seem no great-er than mole hills; and the wildness of the country—its savageness—filled as it was with terocious animals and savage Indians could not fail to impress the mind of a lad of 17 years.— But few lads of that age could be induced to en-ter upon such an undertaking as was before young Van Gorder. He, however, met the exigency with that undanned courage which nev-er forsook him, braved the difficulties and hard-ships of pioneer life in the wilderness, and be-

ships of pioneor life in the wilderness, and became a settler of Trumbull county within four
years after its organization.

In 1802, George Parsons came to Warren,
then a young man, and having come from the
land of steady habits where Free Schools were
general, he was supposed sufficiently educated
to teach school, and the settlers sugaged him to
teach a school in a log school house creeted by
them on the cast bank of the river, near the
sent where the unter bridge now crosses the spot where the upper bridge now crosses the Mahoning. James L. Van Gorder attended this school in the winter of 1802 and 1803. Mr. Parsons the Teacher is yet living, enjoying the good things of this world—the truits of an octive, industrious, and laborious life, while the adventises to the besides world. only relation he sustains to the business world is to officiate in the capacity of President of the Western Reserve Bank. WHOLESALE OR BETAIL.-We

Western Reserve Bank.
Young Van Gorder resided with Henry Lane
until he arrived at his majority, when Mr. Lane
fitted hrm out, as was the custom of the time
with a new suit of clothes and a horse, saidle, and bridle—with this he commenced the world.

He struck out boldly for himself and com-

menced his life duties with real carnestness, im-mediately manifesting that power to conceive and will to execute which characterized him through his long and useful life. His first imthrough his long and useful his. His his inportant undertaking was a job of chapping on
the land of Joseph Reeves, lying about three
miles up the river from Warren. He made the
first opening upon the Reeves farm. Joseph
Reeves was a native of New Jersey, had served
in the Revolutionary War as a militia m.n.,
came to Warren in 1805 or 1806, drew a pen-The land he purchased and upon which James I. Van Gorder commenced the first clearing is still in possession of the Reeves family—his son John Reeves being now the owner, and is BONNETS.—A LARGE STOCK AT greatly reduced prices. MORGAN & ROOT.

living upon it.
In 1507 Mr. Van Gorder was married to Miss Elizabeth Spear, a grand daughter of Dea.

Pryor, who was one of the early settlers of Warren. Soon after the marriage of Mr. Van Gorder, his father's family came from Pittsbugh Cases Bornets, all excisies; Sand and settled in or near Warren. Mrs. Van Gorder is now surviving her husband, they having enjoyed the pleasures, the felicity, and shared the trials of married life for fifty-one years—THE LADIES—We have it.

In 1810, or about that year, Mr. Van Gorden and no insurance, and a heavy loss was the results from the first properties. In 1810, or about that year, Mr. Van Gorden and well be sold at 25 precent reasonable and well be sold at 25 precent reasonable and well the sold at 25 precent reasonable and well the sold at 25 precent reasonable and sold be reasonable at the substitute of the substi

soon became a prominent man in the Suffield settlement. He was elected Captain of the militin company, and when the war of 1812 was proclaimed and the whole frontier was aroused by the surrender of Gen. Hull and Detroit soon after, drafts of militin were made all over the North agreement of Ohio, in which the did have a policy on his lower mills in the Trumbull Mutual Insurance Company, which

Van Gorder added to his business a small dry goods store, which he kept up while there.

his family back to Warren.

The upper mills in Warren were built by Henry Lane, in 1804 or 1805, and are probably feet deep and three stories high in front. This the oldest mills in the county. He afterwards sold them to a man by the name of Finch, who exchanged them as above with Van Gorder, who owned them until his decease. About the time of Mr. Van Gorder's return

since. The house was built of hewed logs very early in the settlement of Warren, and before courts were held in the Cotgreave building.— The courts were held in a large half on the third floor, which afterwards served for a Ma-sonic Lodge Room, and a Dancing Hall for many years. The Jail was in a building or addition to the west part of the building, also built of logs, which was the only place where criminals could be confined until the erection of the present brick Jail, known of late as the an important personage among the carly set-tlers. He was merchant, trader and military officer, and served in the campaign of 1812, as Major of the second Regiment of the Ohio mi-

de quarters to the great hody of the traveling Judges, lawyees, suitors, witnesses, indeed nearly Judges, lawycos, suitors, witnesses, indeed nearly all who were compelled to come to the county again on business, stopped at Van Gorder's hotel. It was also a stopping place for the various lines of stages which passed through or occurred in Warren. Mr. Van Gorden himself, for a time was largely interested on these lines, being a large mail route coutractor.

About the year 1825 Mr. Van Gorder purchased the Lower Mills, so called and by the course of the few men who could keep a taven for so long a time and not become a drunkfard.

In addition to mising his large family, he provided for and took care of his father and mother in their declining years, and soothed their passage to the grave as a kind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do yould like a skind and loving son can only do your like a skind and loving son can only do you have the country and himself, for a time was largely interested on these lines.

chased the Lower Mills, so called; and by this means he had acquired the entire flouring business of the Town and surrounding country at that time. It was a profitable business, and Mr. Van Gorder accumulated property very first. These mills stood on the west side of the river, below and near the west end of the

The construction of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Camil presented a new field for the enterprise of Mr. Van Gorder. He took a large contract upon this Public Work, which em-braced all the Lock work west of the river, with the excavation therefor, and the excavation for many miles beside. This contract he earried on with his accustomed energy, and concluded the same to the entire satisfaction of the company and all concerned. He was more fortunate than some contractors on public works, and made some money on the jub.

About this time he closed his tavern; the fam ily continued to reside in the old Cotgrence House until the great fice of 1846.

The Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal was cor structed about the time of the great expansion which occurred after the removal of the de osita by Gen. Jackson, and the rise in re estate and consequent spirit of speculation which swept over the country absorbing the entire business energies of the people, seemed to settle upon this community with more than its innate wildness and extravagance. Wise, cautious, shrewd and otherwise same men be came effected with the mania and entered int-the spoculation with the determination to be the speculation with the determination to be-come suddenly rich. Real estate took an astro-ishing advance and everybody believed that a great city would spring up with the old village of Warren for a nucleus. A company of War-ren gentlemen purchased a portion of the farm of Judge Freeman, known as the Flats, laid the farm out in lots. The price was up to the figures of the time. A Cieveland company con-tracted for the farm of Samuel Quimby, lying west of the river, at the price of \$75,000, on west of the river, at the price of \$75,000, or which they paid some \$10,000 or \$15,000, an other company composed of Cleveland and War-ren men contracted for the Iddings Mills, at Leavittsburgh, three miles west of Warren, on which they paid some \$5,000; and still anoth-er company contracted for the Lane farm, south of Warren, on which they paid some \$3,000 --These bubbles all burst in time, and the proper-ty all went back into the hands of the original olders, except the Freeman purchase, which is never would take back.

Mr. Van Gorder resisted this mania for any of these companies. After the Freeman purchase had been mide and the ground hid out into lots, he was finally induced to buy into it, for which privilege he paid a fine farm lying within a mile of the Court House. For this he received the share of one or two of the members. bers. This speculation entailed upon him a heavy indebtedness, from which, with his other losses, he never recovered. To secure his por-tion of it he mortgaged his Upper Mills and the

tion of it he mortgaged his Upper Mills and the
farm adjoining, a portion of which has been
sold, but the debt is not yet all wiped out.

This was an exception in Mr. Van Gorder's
successful career. All of his other enterprises
had been completely successful. Neither can
it be said to be an impeachment of his cooluess, sagacity or foresight, for where all were
wild, and extravagant, mad with the frenzy of becoming rich, it would be almost a miracle of an
enterprising business man could escape. When enterprising business man could escape. When and noble man. No whining was ever made by hin; no haby pleas were put in; no failure was talked of; but he set to work to meet the heavy responsibility thus thrown upon him. Scarce had be arranged this large indebted

ness, so as to bring the matter in a shape to en-able him to meet it, whon another heavy has They have reared a family of twelve children to be men and women—eight of whom are now living, and all but two are residing in Warrell.

In 1810 are best that the control of the control

isfactory trace could be found of the perpetra In 1819 or 1820 Mr. Van Gorden exchanged his Suffield mill with a Mr. Finch, for the opper mills in Warren, and about that time he moved his family back to Warren.

stationly trace could be found of the perpetrators of the heinous crimes.

Mr. Van Gorder ogain beilt noon his lot, but this time built a fire proof brick block, comprising family back to Warren. sing six large rooms, or buildings, each separate from the other, and fire proof. They are 100 feet deep and three stories high in front. This

> person, from which he narrowly escaped with bis life. At one time a saw log rolled upon him and nearly crushed him; but after a long confinement, he recovered, but was left with a stiff neck and shoulder. At another time his right hand was drawn into a circular saw, and nearly cut off.

Notwithstanding the losses by the speculation of 1837, and the losses by the several fixes in later years, Mr. Van Gorder leaves an estate of several thousand dollars, and all will see that no ordinary activity and business capacity could do

were permitted to step between him and duty, and deeply has he impressed his image upon No man has lived here who has done so much for the town and county as has Mr. Van Gor-der. Others have had more wealth and more means, but none have made as good use of what they possessed as he has done; none were pos-

characterized him.

As a citizen, he was respected for his honest, open hearted frankness, and few wielded a more ing the same regiment.

Mr. Van Gorder erected a prick addition to the old log building on the east in which he opened a store. Soon after his purchase of this property he opened a tavern in the building, later years, he was a thorough temperance man, and in early life when he was keeping a tavern which was kept by him for many years. It was and in early life when he was keeping a tevern a great place of resort, and furnished comfort and it was customary for all to drink, he never drank himself, although he sold it at his har, but he never permitted drankenness and carousing about his house. His house was an exception in this respect for the times; and him-

> age to the grave as a kind and loving son can only do under like sircumstances. His parents lived to a great age.
>
> In 1842 Mr. Van Gorder united with the Pres byterian Church, and continued to be a constan

and exemplary member until his decease On Thursday last a large concourse of citians followed his corpse to its last resting place, thus testifying their respect for the man, and his noble efforts to advance the business and enhas owned these new mills ever since, and un-til his decease. The old frame is yet standing right character, his virtuous conduct, will not be

lost upon this community; and that the young men who are coming on to the stage of action and duty, will study this true life lesson, and

Dentistry.

DENTISTRY -THOSE HAVING

CLEVELAND TOOTH MANUFACTORY

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which has been strucked by a the cases approved office.

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THE STATE of OHIO, In the Court

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